

The Epistle NEWSLETTER

DAVE ANDERSON

Plan to attend the Dave Anderson concert on Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. See page 2 for the full article.

COMPASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, September 13 is Compassion Sunday. Children all over the world need you to help them.

SCHOOL STARTS St. John Lutheran School started on Monday, August 31.

LWML

District meeting on September 19 at St. John, Stryker. Details on page 14

CROSS TRAINING

Cross Training begins Wednesday, September 2 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Full article on page 6.

GET A GRIP

Senior High fall minigathering on Sunday, November 22. Full article on page 13.

CARE NOTES

There are new CareNotes for you in the church entrance. More details on page 16.

"Safety or Safe Landing" Psalm 23

No doubt these past few months have been hard for many of us in many ways. The coronavirus and the recent social unrest can many times leave us rather shaken and uneasy. Now, more than ever, safety is at the forefront of our lives and we're all willing to take extra measures to make us feel more safe. We are more



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cautious to avoid crowds or say things that may be offensive. During this pandemic, we wear masks, practice social distancing, frequently wash our hands, avoid crowded places, stay away from those who have tested positive and follow strict guidelines for our well-being. Guns and ammunition sales are through the roof and hand gun safety classes are full of those seeking to legally carry fire arms, some small enough to fit in a purse. Extra firearms help us feel safe. We invest in heavy doors, locks, dead bolts and even alarm systems to protect our homes and loved ones. Purchases of SUVs, trucks, expensive tires all bought after careful investigation from consumer reports that they provide rides. Small children know to crawl between their sleeping parents to feel safe during storms or after bad dreams. We believers find comfort and hope in the cherished words of Psalm 23; we take hope and comfort that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. In our minds we have a very safe picture of a bold Jesus standing confidently holding a large staff watching over innocent sheep, namely us, whom He loves dearly.

While it's true that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, we need to remember that microbes can still infect us, violence can still come our way, devastating accidents can happen and as Derecho, the recent Midwest storm showed, that homes made of bricks, boards and dry wall can still harm and kill and we are not immune to thieves and nature's fury. Safety may make us feel better, but the reality is that there is no real safety on this earth, there are only the promises and blessings of our Good Shepherd.

Church 419.782.5766.

<cont'd on pg 3>

- CHURCH SERVICE TIMES -

Traditional Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday and Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday

- LIVE STREAMING -

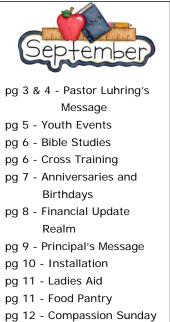
5:30 p.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m.Sunday Bible Study Sunday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

School 419.782.1751

655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, OH 43512

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The Epistle, September 2020



- pg 12 Scout News
- pg 13 Get a Grip-Youth
- pg 14 LWML
- pg 15 Members' Responses
- pg 16 Care Notes, LCMS Foundation
- pg 17 Our ministries
- pg 18 Life with God
- pg 19 Youth News

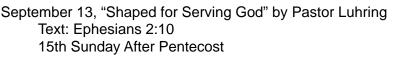
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- pg 19 Youth Calendar
- pg 20 Church Calendar

Rita Bergman, Editor Please send articles to sjl@defnet.com

SERMONS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6, "His Investments" by Pastor Mews Text: Matthew 18:1-20 14th Sunday After Pentecost



September 20, "Now Is the Time" by Pastor Mews Text: Isaiah 55:6-9 16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, "What Is God's Will?" by Pastor Luhring Text: Ephesians 5:15-17 17th Sunday After Pentecost

PASTOR'S OFFICIAL ACTS Funerals

Janice Johansen died on Aug. 2, received Christian funeral on Aug. 8 with committal on Aug. 15.

PRIVATE COMMUNION

The Pastors continue to offer private Communion for anyone who wishes to have Communion. Please call the church office for an appointment.

SHUT-IN CALLS

We have around 30 people who are designated as shut-ins in our congregation. The Pastors, Walt Smith, George Kaiser and Jim Schatz are keeping in contact with our members. If the shut-in person is comfortable having a home visit, then they make arrangements for this visit. Otherwise, they receive a care telephone call.

DAVE ANDERSON CONCERT ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 6, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

Dave Anderson and Roger Walck will present a concert on Sunday, Sept. 6, at St. John Lutheran. The concert is sponsored by St. John. During the concert, Dave will share from his personal experiences having traveled 4,000,000 miles over the past 43 years of concert ministry. These travels have included concerts in Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Scandinavian countries, and 25 trips to Australia and New Zealand. 2020 is the last year for Dave's and Roger's concerts. Now, in addition to concerts in the Southwest and Northwest,

Dave has decided to focus his ministry attention on the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat ministry.

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is a specialized counseling ministry for wounded professional church workers and their spouses (singles are welcome too). As many as four couples gather for eight days of intensive Christian therapy, centered around God's Word and the healing and restoration that comes from His grace and mercy.

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Inc. P.O. Box 51510, Phoenix, AZ 85076 480-838-8500

www.TheFellowship.com - www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org www.TheRescueStory.com



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Read the 23rd Psalm together

The Good Shepherd feeds and nourishes His sheep, His people, not so that they can feel safe and live comfortable lives, but that they may be led by Him in righteous and godly lives of love and service. Jesus leads us through the valley of the shadow of death. Being a believer may mean persecution and Christians are not safe from the effects of a sinful fallen world, be it a pandemic, violence or disaster. Contrary to the fluff of pop religion, Jesus never promised anyone a safe ride. God is not safe Himself. Hebrew shares with us that apart from Christ, God is an avenging fire. Jesus speaks more of hell then heaven and reminds all of both the horror and peace of the impending judgment day. C.S. Lewis is correct as he depicts Jesus as Aslan, a lion, who while dangerous is also good. St. Paul reminds us that God is not mocked, and never did Jesus tolerate sin, heresy or disrespect of His temple and grace.

Being God's children, we are guided by His rod and staff. This is more than grandma's paddle made of a heart shaped pillow. He does prune our branches, and disciplines those He loves. God burns dross of doubt and fear from our hearts and soul. He prepares us to deal with our enemies, and in maturing us His children, we are never promised earthly safety. Christians are persecuted and bear crosses for eternal good as with prophets and disciples of His day and believers of every age.

This Good Shepherd may even be seen as a "stalker" as His goodness and mercy follows us. He follows us along both godly and ungodly paths. His eyes are constantly upon us and He knows the number of the hairs on our head. He never slumbers or sleeps, but works through means so that His sheep are returned to godly paths, cared for and fed. Yet in the end, He promises a safe landing, where His sheep will dwell in His house forever, where there is only His glory, power and peace. There in His arms we will truly have and know divine peace and safety.

May God in Christ bless you richly. Pastor Mews

FROM PASTOR LUHRING

The Foundation for a Healthy Church.

A young pastor bought some property and built a log cabin. Even with the help of his father and some friends, it took two years to complete,



since he couldn't work on it full time. Then when he began building, it took him an entire summer just to lay the foundation. First he had to clear a pad in the forest by cutting down and uprooting thirty-seven towering pine trees. Then he had to dig over sixty feet of five-foot deep French drains and fill them with gravel because the ground was wet from a nearby underground spring. After ten exhausting weeks, all he had to show for his effort was a leveled and squared concrete foundation. He was discouraged.

The young pastor's father who had built over a hundred buildings said, "Cheer up, son! When you have finished laying the foundation, the most critical work is behind you." The foundation determines both the size and the strength of a building. You can never build larger than the foundation can handle. This is true for churches. Churches built on an inadequate or a faulty foundation will never reach the height that God intends for it to reach. It will topple over once it outgrows its base.

Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people

perish." It is also true that where there is no vision, people leave for another parish. Many churches are barely surviving because they have no vision. They limp along from Sunday to Sunday. A church without a purpose becomes a museum piece of yesterday's traditions. The quickest way to reinvigorate a declining church is to reclaim God's purpose for it and help the members understand the great tasks the church has been given by Christ.

Two statements were given by Jesus that summarizes what the church is to be and do: 1)"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40) And 2) "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

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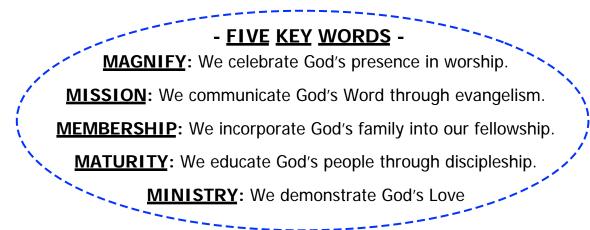
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The Epistle, September 2020

Five tasks that Christ ordained for His church to accomplish. #1...Love the Lord with all your heart. That describes worship. How do we love God with all our heart? By worshiping Him! #2... Love your neighbor as yourself. This is the church's ministry to meet the needs and heal the hurts of others. #3... Go and make disciples. This is the task we call evangelism. The church exists to communicate God's Word. We are to tell the whole world of Christ's coming, His death on the cross, His resurrection, and His promise to return. #4... Baptizing them. As Christians we are called to



belong and nor just to believe. We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives. We are to belong to Christ's family and baptism adopts us into the Body of Christ. #5... Teaching them to obey. This is the church's task of discipleship. The church exists to educate God's people. Discipleship is the process of helping people become more like Christ in their thoughts, feelings, and actions. THE CHURCH exists to edify, to encourage, to exalt, to equip, and to evangelize.



Let us keep our foundation strong and rooted in the Word, Pastor Luhring

99.999% SANITATION ON FOOD CONTACT SURFACES WITH NO RINSE REQUIRED

The church and school will be sanitized with VitalOxide. VitalOxide is proven to work on all surfaces. This product is an EPA registered hospital disinfectant cleaner, mold killer and super-effective odor eliminator. Ready to use with no mixing required, just spray, wipe and fog right from the bottle. Non-irritating to the skin and non-corrosive to treated articles including carpet and upholstery.

Stay Connected!

- www.stjohndefiance.com
- · Realm onrealm.org
- St. John Lutheran Defiance, OH youtube.com
- Podcast: https://www.buzzsprout.com/54964
- St John Lutheran, Defiance, OH YouTube
- · Facebook.com
- www.stjohntigers.com
- sjl@defiance and @mews_kurt



COVID-19 MEETING SCHEDULED

COVID-19 MEETING to be held again on Monday, September 14 at 7:00 P.M. in the fellowship hall for all ministry and board ministry leaders. These meetings oversee the safety and well-being of all

our members during this pandemic and assist with planning basic ministry for our church and our school.



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Youth Fun & Fellowship!

The youth have been busy with doing tye-dye shirts, swimming, Bible Studies and having fun "Flocking" people as a fundraiser. Flock someone today with our pink flamingos. Call Cassidy today!

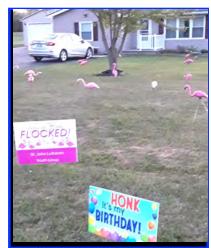


Cassidy Holeso DCE having fun making tie-dye shirts with the youth group.



No virus is going to stop the fun!





\$20.00 OF FUN! If you would like to "Flamingo" your relative or neighbor, please call Cassidy Holeso DCE to schedule. This is a fundraiser for St. John Youth Group. Thank you for your support.



Who is that masked guy???



Fun in the sun at Christy Meadows!



Kayaking fun with a friend!



A good time was had by all!



1-2-3 JUMP!

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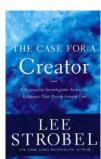
BIBLE 210DIES	
Monday 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Fellowship Room "Life with God" (starting Sept. 14)
Tuesday 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.	Fellowship Room C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity" Zoom meeting, C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity Pastor Mews
Wednesday	
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Moms in Touch, Faye Luhring every other Wednesday
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Room C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity" Pastor Mews
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Cross Training Senior High Hangouts for the youth
Thursday	
10:00-11:30 p.m.	Fellowship Room, "Genesis Bible Study" Pastor Mews (discussing Abraham & Isaac) The class has prayerfully agreed to 'adopt a teacher' as one of their ministries.
Friday	
6:30 - 7:30 a.m.	Adult A Room, Iron Men Bible Study Pastor Luhring
Sunday	
9:30 - 10:30 p.m.	Cassidy's Office, Youth Bible Study Lunchroom A, "The End Times" Phil Rohlf
	Lunchroom B. Bible Study

Faye Luhring Fellowship Room B, "The Book of Acts" Jeff Rohlf Fellowship Room A, Bible Study Sandy Gyurnek

CASE FOR THE CREATOR

Was taught this summer in a 6 class (Wednesday evening) session. Using current scientific evidence and research over the cell, DNA, The fine tuning of the Universe and more, the data and facts pointed toward the reality of an Intelligent Designer (God). Nearly 20 attended and all stated it was a blessing.

This class will be offered again, next summer or at an earlier time according to one's request.



CROSS TRAINING

Cross Training will begin with a big kick-off event on Wednesday September 2 from 6:30-8:00p.m. All families with children in grades 1 - 8 are invited to attend. For our Cross Training kick-off, we will be holding a sports themed dinner for all of our Confirmation students and families! Wear your favorite sports team gear. St. John will provide the meal for this event.

At this meeting, we will be going over our Cross Training covenant, introducing the teachers who will be leading classes this year, discussing various events that will be held over these next few months, and handing out forms as well. Please let us know if you cannot make it to this event. We can meet separately to go over details.

What is Cross Training?

Cross Training is our Confirmation program here at St. John Lutheran. Our goal is to build up students with the knowledge about their faith in Christ so that they can share it with the world. Throughout this year we will grow together through fellowship, special events, service projects, icebreakers, team-building games, and learning about our faith and what we believe as Christians.

All students in 1st - 8th grades are invited to participate in this program. 1st - 5th grades will be taught together while 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be taught separately. There are 95 children ages 6 to 13, who are members of this congregation, and we would love to have all participate in learning more about our amazing God.

If you will be attending our kick-off event/ participating in our Confirmation program this year, please contact us at the church office. We look forward to another year of building faith in our young leaders and growing in our relationship with Christ!

Contact Information:

Pastor Kurt Mews – mews-sjl@defnet.com 419-782-5766 ext. 105

Cassidy Holeso DCE – holeso-sjl@defnet.com 419-782-5766 ext. 106

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Thank you to the "Birthday Parade" volunteers who are bringing smiles to our 80+ birthday members. Our WeCare Card Ministry honors our members with a greeting card. Thank you!

80+ September Birthdays

Ramona Burkhart	Sept. 14	82 yrs
Ronald Burke	Sept. 17	89 yrs
Clarence Meyer	Sept. 17	91 yrs
Marilyn Burke	Sept. 20	88 yrs
Helen Steingass	Sept. 21	85 yrs
Marian March	Sept. 29	80 yrs
Marvin Thieroff	Sept. 29	91 yrs
William Johnson	Sept. 30	83 yrs

September 40+ Anniversaries

Larry & Susan Meyer	Sept. 11	60 yrs
Tom & Pam Kime	Sept. 15	48 yrs
Gerry & Jenny George	Sept. 23	42 yrs
Doug & Cindy Heller	Sept. 28	41 yrs.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet is in need of volunteer help. We will run an ad in the Crescent-News to let the community know that we are



open and outline the new procedures.

If you want to volunteer to help, please call Sharon Keller at (419) 782-2639.

MUSIC



The challenges we face currently

make St. John Lutheran Senior Choir and the Hand Bells difficult to convene and practice.

Information will be published in the weekly bulletin when we have more direction.

"Make a Joyful Noise"

655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, OH 43512

"WeCare" Card Ministry

Penny Mueller manages this ministry. People are selected to receive a care card based on their need.



Our "WeCare" card team consists of Marilyn Reeb, Judy Detter, Elmer and Linda Friederickson, Amy Ducat, Cricket Hageman, DiAnn Wichman, Dolena Bergman, Karen

Heilshorn, Linda Hageman, Nancy Baldwin and Sharon Meyer. Messages of support, encouragement, love and concern are mailed each week.

Moms in Touch

Faye Luhring leads the Moms in Touch Bible Study group. They meet every other Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This group focuses on prayer and prayers for the many members of our church

family and community. Please contact Faye at 419-782-0153.

KNIT AND STUDY

The Knit and Study ladies group meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The booties that



are knitted or crocheted by the group or other volunteers are given to the Defiance Crisis Pregnancy Center. The group enjoys studying God's Word together. Contact Judie Zachrich at 419-784-5297

TELECARE

As St. John Lutheran Church continues to grow, fulfilling it's mission "to make fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ of the dechurched population of Defiance County," more Telecare Team lay ministers are needed.



As a Telecare Team lay minister you could be a sower of His love. We provide TeleCare training so people are prepared to do this ministry. If you would like to help, please call Penny Mueller at 419-304-5768. Many of our Stephen Ministers participate in this ministry as an extended care ministry to our members. Email: sjl@defnet.com if you are in need of a Stephen Minister. All contacts are confidential.

We invite your prayers for these people as they extend Christ's hand of love to you and others in our congregation.

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"CONNECT APP"

Now that you have a Realm account you can download the Realm "Connect app" on your



iPhone or Android phone. Stay connected to your group wherever you go. This free app enables leaders to communicate with members in a timely manner, and it keeps members engaged through out the week. Although people are not required to use the app to participate in your group, it makes it easier. Here is a list of what church members can do with the Realm CONNECT app:

- Share a message with others in your group or church.
- Offer or view prayer requests.
- Put your photo online for use with your profile.
- Sign up for events and activities.
- See who else will attend a group or church event.
- Share feedback about events.





GIVING STATEMENTS

If you have a Realm account, you can print your giving statement at any time. Log into your Realm account and click on the "giving" tab.

Click on the printer icon to print your statement. If you have not joined St. John Lutheran "closed" Realm group please email, sjl@defnet.com and request an invite to join Realm. Realm accounts are for members who are 14 and older with a unique email address associated with your name.

A yearly giving statement will still be printed for everyone in January and placed in your church mailbox.

omment	
2020 Giving Statement	

Financial Update

With the start of the new school the demands of our finances increase. The school provides a percentage of monies to cover the cost of expenses of wages and benefits etc. from the tuition.

There are 94 students enrolled at St. John for the 2020-21 school year. That is 94 young minds who can hear about Jesus and learn of His love for them. This is fulfilling the Great Commission.

We need your continued support as this is our primary ministry of St. John. Thank you for helping be a part of fufulling the command of Jesus.

Aug. revenue: \$51,918.58 Aug. expenses: \$81,365.98

You can make a difference in our future generations.

Please make a commitment to be a part of children learning about Jesus.



CONGREGATIONAL **ADMINISTRATOR**

I have been promoted to Congregational Administrator. My main duties are manage the church office, computers, purchase items needed, record all invoices and



assist the pastors. I have worked in the church office for 13 years and have been a member of St. John for 46 years. Pastor Koenig confirmed me in 1974.

I look forward continuing to serve this congregation the best way that I can with the help of God.

Sincerely, **Rita Bergman**

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Greetings St. John Families:

It is with great pride and joy that I welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year at St. John Lutheran School. May I extend a warm welcome to all our new families and a "welcome back" to our returning ones. Although this year may look different than any other school year we have had, due to COVID-19, as a school we are committed to developing dynamic disciples by providing an excellent education centered on God's Word as we serve our students and families.

I am excited about our theme for this year, which is Sent to Serve. "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28. Jesus came to seek, save and to serve sinners. He came to pay for the sins of the whole world. Jesus' ultimate act of service was seen as He gave His life on the cross so we may

enjoy eternal life through faith in Him. I am constantly in awe of that gift. And just as Christ served us, we are called to serve. Our Lutheran school is a way for our church to serve our local congregation and community. Throughout this year in our chapels, devotions, and our Bible time we will explore the various ways and people whom Jesus served while He was on earth. We will also focus on tangible ways in which we can be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve our church, community, country, and the world. What an incredible opportunity we have to impact others for Christ! This theme couldn't be more fitting for our school. It ties in so nicely to our mission statement. The school's mission and purpose are to follow Christ's example, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, prepare children for a life of discipleship by helping them grow in faith, knowledge, and character. This year we will be continually focusing on following Christ's example to serve. This will result in growth for our students in their faith, character, and knowledge.

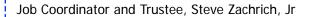
During the course of this school year, we will include in the bulletin the names of a few school families for you to pray for each week. This gives you, our church family, the opportunity to also serve alongside us through your prayers. There are also many other opportunities within the school to serve. Whether that be through your financial gifts, donations of books and school supplies, and eventually (and when it is safe to due to COVID-19) by volunteering within the building.

It is my prayer that as a church and school family, we will strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ and our faith in Him over this coming year, as well as to truly strive to model Jesus in our lives as we are committed to serving those around us. Looking forward to an incredible school year celebrating the One who was "Sent to Serve"!

God's Blessings, John March, principal

Tuckpointing, Repair and Sealing!

The tuckpointing, repair and sealing of the 1965 building is done. Moving forward, maintenance of cleaning and sealing of the brick is recommended every 10 years. The job took about a month to complete. The \$40,000 project was financed by Endowment funds. Thank you to the Endowment for providing the monies for this project.



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9







INSTALLATION OF PRINCIPAL AND REDIDICATION OF THE STAFF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



Mr. John March was installed as principal of St. John on Sunday, August 9th and the staff was rededicated at the church services on that weekend.

The first day of school was Monday, August 31.

Pastors: Principal: School Secretary: Director of Early Childhood: 3 year old- Preschool: 4 year old- Preschool: Kindergarten: Grade 1: Grade 2: Grade 3: Grade 4: Grade 5: Grade 6: Grades 7 & 8: Grades 4-8 Art Teacher: Grades 3-8 Spanish Teacher: **Intervention Specialist:** Tutor: Speech/Hearing: Title 1 Reading: School Counselor: ASP Clerk: Lunchroom Manager: Head Cook: Custodians: Board of Christian Day School:

Youth Leader: Congregation Administrator: Church Secretaries: Rev. Donald Luhring, Rev. Kurt Mews Mr. John March Ms. Kori Joost Mrs. Debbie Wagner Mrs. Sarah Cavin Mrs. Debbie Wagner Mrs. Kimberly Stottlemyer Mrs. Lorrie March Mrs. Cheryl Yoder Mrs. Tiffany Scheurich Ms. Carli Rossow Ms. Kaitlynn Mews Ms. Angela Santo Mrs. Alexis Phillips Mrs. Jennifer Boyd Mrs. Mary Hayner Mrs. Kristina Phipps Mrs. Jennifer Zachrich Mrs. Lexie Semer Mrs. Audrey Eis Mrs. Julia Rossow Mrs. Nancy Kemper Mrs. Jessica Osborn Mrs. Peggy Schulte Mr. Mike Shawley, Bill Phlipot Mr. Brian Flores, Miss Pat Marshall, Mrs. Kate Webb, Ms. Shelly Lindsay, Mrs. Amber Gillengerten Ms. Cassidy Holeso Mrs. Rita Bergman Ms. Danielle Oberhaus, Mrs. Diana Grim



John and Lorrie March (John was a 1989 graduate of St. John Lutheran School, Defiance, OH)

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN 1989 GRADUATION CLASS



Chris Baden Krista Bennett Scott Bergman Scott Blair Abby Font Tracy Froelich Cathy Hultz David Kaiser Robbie Kalessis Cindy Luhring Barb March John March Doug Schwab Tina Sheets Andy Smith Aaron Upp Brad Zenz

8th Grade Teacher: Miss Pat Marshall Principal: Mr. George Kaiser

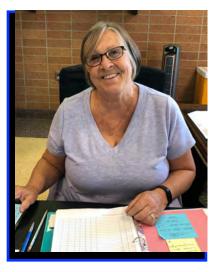
Along with Tiger's Den staff and teacher aides!

The Food Pantry

continues on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In August we served 44 families or 131 people with 225 bags of food with a value of \$2250.



Thank you to our congregation for supporting this ministry and to all our volunteers who help with their time and talent to continue the operating.



FOOD PANTRY MANAGER

We welcome Deborah Hastedt as our Food Pantry Manager. Since Deb retired she is trying to keep herself busy subbing as a school bus driver, sewing and enjoying her grandkids. She read in the bulletin that we needed help in the Food Pantry. It

sounded like a great place to volunteer. And somehow here she is and loving it. She could not imagine doing it without all the help from the GREAT group of volunteers. She mentioned the office staff has been very patient with all her "goof ups". We are blessed to have Deborah on board helping with this ministry.



FOOD PANTRY DAY

Jim Seymour fills the order for one of our food pantry clients. We have minimal contact with the client adhering to safe food distribution practices.

Ladies Aid

We hope everyone is doing well during these trying times. Let us remember Psalm 39:7 "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you." Let us not forget that the Lord is in control.

Our next meeting is September 24, at 2:00 p.m. JoAnn McCray will be the hostess chair. The food pantry items for the month are detergent and tissue.

We will be distance socializing and hoping to see you at the meeting.

Don't forget to mark you calendars for the Advent Tea on November 22, at 2:30 p.m.

Our officers are:

President, Roberta Phlipot, Vice President, Lorna Smith Secretary, Donna Van Vlerah, Treasurer, Nancy Kemper



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020 2:30 p.m. Advent Tea



FOOD PANTRY HELPERS

Once a month Phil Rohlf, George Kaiser, Walt Smith and Gerry George hook up Phil's trailer and head for Toledo at 6:00 a.m. The orders are placed with the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank and Seagate. Both of these are our primary sources of food suppliers. However, we love all the donations we receive from the giving hearts of our congregation.

On Wednesday, August 19, we received an order of food. Caleb Zachrich, working on his Citizenship in the Community badge for Boy Scouts, volunteered to assist us by putting over 2,000 lbs of food away onto our shelves. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry.

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hope for every ONE.

"TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME."

- Matthew 25:40, NIV



SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR: When we serve the poor, we serve God. When we honor people living in poverty, we honor his Son. When we protect the oppressed, we protect the kingdom of Christ.

We, have an opportunity to do just that – an opportunity to serve, honor and protect "the least of these brothers and sisters," in a time when it's needed more than ever.

How? By choosing to sponsor a child living in poverty.

Compassion Sunday is September 13 – a day set apart to change the story for children living in poverty around the world. You'll be invited to sponsor a precious child who would love to have someone like you to serve, honor and protect them. To love them. And to give them hope.

You can follow Christ's call to stand up for "the least of these." Will you?

Say 'YES!" and sponsor a child today.

We have 12 children who are sponsored by St. John members.

Go to: www.compassion.com/stjohnlutheran to select your child today.



Scouting News September 2020



Although the Pack swim at a local residence in August was cancelled due to coronavirus concerns, Cubs will begin meeting regularly this month in small groups while following proper safety guidelines. All look forward to a Halloween Party in October.

The troop recently went on a round-trip bike ride from Pontiac Park to Independence Dam. In addition, Scouts loaded and delivered newspapers for recycling from the garage at St. John. Enjoying ice cream at a local establishment was a fitting end for all their hard work. Plans to work on some



merit badges and a day trip to a lake for some water fun are on the agenda. Caleb Zachrich's Eagle Project has been approved and the Troop will assist him with construction of a horse-washing station at Defiance County Fairgrounds.

Both the Pack and Troop are currently selling popcorn, an annual fundraising event for both. Monies earned help provide outstanding programs for the youth. Your support would be truly appreciated.

The Boy Scout Troop has for many years recycled newspapers as a conservation project. Anyone wishing to recycle newspapers can place them in the garage on the east side of the south parking lot. Money made from their sale is used to help pay Scouts to attend summer camp.

Youth and adults are always welcome to attend pack and troop events to learn more about the program. Questions at any time can be addressed to Mike Saxton, Chartered Organization Representative, at 419.439.2079.

New High School Program: Fuse Nights!

The word "fuse" means to join or blend to form a single entity. In high school, you are becoming your own individual self as you experience new things. But when we all come together and worship our amazing God, we form as one in the Body of Christ. Fuse is geared for high school students looking to serve in their community, grow in relationships with others, and build a strong relationship with God. Join us at our first Fuse Night on September 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. John! There will be games, a small devotion with discussion, and snacks! Feel free to bring a friend to this event.

Senior High Gathering: Get a Grip (1 Peter 5:6-7) Attention: All Senior High Students!



Due to COVID, the annual Ohio District Sr. High Gathering will be divided into 4 regional mini-

gatherings. These mini-gatherings will still have music, a Bible study, keynote speaker, workshops and service events. The divided groups are:

- Southern: Cincinnati area
- · Central: Columbus area
- Northwest: Toledo area (Our region!)
- Northeast: Cleveland area

Each Mini-Gathering will be held at a church. Here are the times and locations:

• Saturday, November 21, 2020 from 1:00-9:00 p.m. – Messiah-Cincinnati and Living Word-Galena

• Sunday, November 22, 2020 from 1:00-9:00 p.m. – St. Paul Napoleon and Community of Hope Brecksville

St. John youth will be attending the mini-gathering on Sunday, November 22 at St. Paul, Napoleon from 1:00 - 9:00 p.m.

While one city is having Dr. Micah Parker and the Scally Brothers Band, the other will be doing some community building, Bible Study, and break-out sessions. Then things will switch so both cities have the complete program all in one day! The same will happen in the other cities on Sunday.

The cost will be \$50 per person (price might be lowered - so don't let that keep you away!). This will cover honorariums and travel expenses for our presenters. This fee will also provide a dinner meal, snacks and any other supplies needed. To get the registration forms, contact DCE Cassidy at <u>holeso-sjl@defnet.com</u> or call at 419.782.5766

Tigers' Den & Preschool from Debbie Wagner

For preschool, we will be creative

in following the governor's guidelines. As per our 2020-21 plan created this past spring, (before Governor DeWine



closed schools), the Tigers' Den was to be closed during the day and no longer would we be accepting any students from outside of our building. A new program has been approved where classroom ratios and staff will be maintained. Furthermore, our full-day students will be using the Tigers' Den rooms for enrichment learning, naps, and lunch.

As we more forward with continued guidance from Governor DeWine and the board of Christian Day School, we will continue to keep you informed.

In His Service, Debbie Wagner, Early Childhood Director

OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS!

In 2021, we will be celebrating 170 years (1851-2021) since establishing St. John Lutheran Church. If you would like to be on this committee to plan to celebrate our anniversary please call the church office.



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

What is Orphan Grain Train?

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

Since 1992, Orphan Grain Train's 27 regional locations have delivered more than 36 million meals and 3,728 shipments of humanitarian aid to needy people in several states and 69 countries on 5 continents. Orphan Grain Train built a mobile chapel with help from a grant funded by LCMS Disaster Relief division for St. John's Lutheran Church in Pilger, NE after their church was demolished by a F4 tornado. In October 2017 hurricane Michael ravaged the shoreline of Texas and a majority of Houston. Michael left behind homes and businesses in ruins and lives lost. Orphan Grain Train purchased and delivered 15 shipments of building construction materials and 5 semi-loads of groceries to help stock shelves in a food pantry feeding volunteers and those who lost everything. In October 2018 OGT had 400 turkeys delivered for Thanksgiving meals to those still living in desperation a year later. The mission of Orphan Grain Train is uniquely dependent upon dedicated volunteers, many of whom have given numerous years of service for the sake of others. Since 1992, more than 3.9 million hours have been volunteered!

Orphan Grain Train is a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Many shipments have been in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief, and other Christian ministries.

Contact Information

Nancy Helmke, Ohio Center Coordinator Phone: 419-758-3539 Email: nhelmke@bright.net Mailing Address

17646 County Road M Napoleon, OH 43545 Warehouse Location 500 Independence Dr. Napoleon, OH 43545

The Ohio Collection Center is open with 7 people in the building at a time. Please call ahead to schedule a time to come and volunteer.

LWML FALL RETREAT

Napoleon / Defiance Retreat

"The Wonderful Surprise" 1 Corinthians 2:10

Where: St. John Lutheran Church State Routes 6 & 66 When: Saturday, September 19, 2020 Time: 8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. program Speaker: Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer Light breakfast and lunch provided

Ingathering: Orphan Grain Train New underwear and socks (all sizes)

LWML MITES

Bookstore: Bring used Christian books, CDs and DVDs. These can be purchased for a free will mite offering Send registration to Linda Bostelman by Friday, September 4.

REGISTRATION FORM
Name
Address
Baby Sitting Yes
Names/Ages of children
Home church
Send check (payable to LWML Retreat)
for \$14.00 to
Linda Bostelman
P.O. Box 393
Antwerp, OH 45813-0393
Deadline is Friday, Sept. 4, 2020

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What have our members been doing to reach out with love and concern for one another?

We have been staying home, wearing our masks, washing our hands and keeping 6 feet apart. But that is not all our members have been doing! Many of our members are making a very stressful situation into something productive with a big dose of love.

- Every Tuesday the "Birthday Parade" is driving by members who have an 80+ birthday.
- Texting family and friends.
- Facetime with family and friends.
- Zoom family meetings.
- Checking on neighbors without internet.
- Helping neighbors with food and money.
- Cut and arrange flowers and deliver them to friends and neighbors.
- Sending greeting cards.
- Phone calls.
- Cooking a little extra to deliver to an older relative.
- Enjoying playing "table games" like cards and dominoes with neighbors and friends.
- Sewing masks for family, friends and the community.
- Sharing garden produce.
- Running errands for neighbors, family and friends.



ARCHIVE ROOM

In the basement of the 1989 addition, there is an "Archive Room" that has records for the school and church...a lot of history. This room is fire proofed and moisture controlled. This room has not been cleaned out for many years. Financial records older than 10 years old were destroyed. We had a professional shredding company shred the records on site. Now you can walk into this room!

PREPARING THE POWERPOINTS EVERY WEEK

The process of creating the powerpoints every week starts with creating the worship guide, pulling the hymns, songs, scriputre and liturgy. The traditional service liturgy is used from our subscription to "Creative Worship" from Concordia Publishing House. The contemporary service liturgy is used from our subscription to "Worship Outlet." Once the worship guide is proofed and corrected, it is ready to be formatted at 48 pt



in the powerpoint presentation. There are number of people who help put the pictures and graphics on the powerpoints.

Dick Bonin, Sandy Joost, Carrie Homier, Heidi Keween, and Rita Bergman finish the powerpoints. We are not done there. Diana Grim proofs the final presentation and after the proofing Rita Bergman places the powerpoint on the church computer.







CareNotes offer strength, help and healing for those who are hurting and provide a wealth of emotional, recovery, health, grief and eldercare support and information.

New CareNotes have been placed in the rack in the entrance of the Church. Please take one for you or give to a friend.

- "Angry? Lonely? Anxious? Dealing with Difficult Emotions"
- "Climbing Up From Depression"
- "Easing the Burden of Stress"
- "Dealing with Anger"
- "Finding a Way to Forgive"
- "Finding Peace in the Present Moment"
- "How Faith Helps Us Overcome Anxiety"
- "Responding to Life's Challenges that are Out of Your Control"
- "Responding to Life's Challenges with Resilience and Strength"

Quotes from some of the CareNotes

"The human capacity for resilience allows us to rally our psychological and spiritual resources to withstand crises, weather repeated difficulties, and survive adversity." —James D. and Evelyn E. Whitehead

"Recognizing our vulnerability without succumbing to it results in inner peace and a sense of personal integrity." —Kathleen Fischer

"Surrender your fear. Embrace the vulnerability. And trust your strength." —Kelly Rae Roberts

"Stress, when properly regulated and channeled, is one of life's most positive energies."

"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength—carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." —Corrie ten Boom

Take One – and take heart Give One – and give hope



Inheritance of Faith

Otto and Grace served the Lord from baptism to grave in their earthly lives.

During the years when the children were growing up, finances were tight. But they were rich, because of the inheritance Jesus has laid in store for those who believe in Him. "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told you. And If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be where I am." (John 14:2-3)

When Otto was called home, Grace still had seven years to sojourn here. After a lifetime of meticulous money management, she was still worried. It had plagued her all her life. But God provided. She was cared for. She was comfortable. Yes, she even was content.

True to God's provision, there was an abundance beyond her needs and she passed that on to family as inheritance. In her will she wrote, "I urge my heirs not to set their hopes on uncertain riches, but to take hold of the life which is life indeed through faith in Jesus Christ." Those words coupled together with a modest financial inheritance are a true gift. The family was not perfect. No family is. But in the end, God's grace wins the day. Understanding that is a true inheritance from the Lord.

Do you want help to craft a plan that will enable your family to celebrate that same inheritance? Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Eileen Fitzenreiter at 419-822-6461 or Eileen.Fitzenreiter@lfnd.org.

Where would you like to serve?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bible Study Cross Training Life with God VBS

CHURCH & SCHOOL HELPERS

Bulk Mailings Data input Filing Printing/Collator Receptionist

CHRIST CARE

Birthday Parade Never Alone Prayer Chain Shut-in Calls Stephen Ministry TeleCare WeCare Card Ministry

COMMITTEES

Endowment Committee Scholarship Committee

FELLOWSHIP

Ladies Aid Men's Project Team Book Club

GROUPS

Jr High & Sr High Youth Group Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts

ORGANIZATIONS

Board of Christian Education Elders Fellowship Board Finance Board Parish Planning Council Public Relations Board Stewardship Board Trustees Youth Board Archivist

OUTREACH

Clothes Closet Food Pantry Crisis Pregnancy Center Social Welfare

WORSHIP HELPERS

Acolytes Altar Guild **Baptism Banners** Children's Talks Children's Ministry Bags Greeters Hand Bells Instrumentalists Lay Readers **PPT Clickers Radio Broadcast** Senior Choir Soloists Sound Board Ushers Worship Teams Videographers

- ST. JOHN LEADERSHIP -

Pastor Luhring, Senior Pastor, Pastor Mews, Associate Pastor John March, School Principal Brian Flores, School Board President Dave Martin, Congregational President Danielle Oberhaus, Diana Grim, Congregational Secretaries Richard Bonin, Elder Chairman Jeff Rohlf, Stewardship Chairman Cassidy Holeso, DCE, Youth Intern Steve Waxler, Trustee Chairman Rita Bergman, Congregational Administrator, Webmaster Lonnie Warncke, Media Ministry Bill Phlipot, Treasurer, Krystle Adams, Bookkeeper Jenny George, Fellowship Chairman Brandon Osborn & Dave Heidepriem, Usher Chairmen Darci Van Vlerah, Choir Director Mary Goldenetz & Lorna Smith, Finance Board Roberta Phlipot, Ladies Aid President

FALL 2020 - LIFE WITH GOD (LWG) Starting, Monday, September 14, 2020

Does God exist? What happens after death? Why are there so many different religions? Can the Bible be trusted? Why do bad things happen to me? I want to learn more about Lutheranism and become a member of a Christian Church. St. John's "Life with God," explores and answers these questions and more in an informal, enjoyable, yet beneficial way through a 12 session/week course called <u>"Life with God." (LWG)</u> Sign up below. We ask that participants attend 10/12 classes and there are videos over each class that can be viewed for missed classes. Those who complete this course can become communicant members if they desire. "Life with God" will be offered each winter, spring and fall. St. John members are asked to attend a "Life with God" class once every five years to renew and refresh their faith!

TOPICS: Evidence for God's Existence, Saving Faith, Baptism, The Lord's Supper, The Bible, Law and Gospel, Living a Christian Life, Being a part of the Body of Believers at St. John, Good Works, The Ten Commandments, Worship, Christian Stewardship. Come to learn and grow together.

DATES: <u>Monday, September 14, 2020 to Monday, November 30, 2020</u>. Classes are held on Monday Evenings in the Adult Bible Study room from 6:30-8:30 P.M.. Bring nothing, the last class we will bring refreshments to share. After the 2nd class, no new class members are to join.

TEACHERS: Pastor Mews and/or Pastor Luhring. Both have extensive experience teaching these classes.

FOR: Adults or High School students desiring to be members of St. John Lutheran Church, or those who want to support those attending. This is also for those who simply desire to renew their faith or explore the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism.

REGISTRATION: To be turned in to the church office by **Sunday**, **September 13**, or handed to a pastor.

FALL 2020 St. John Lutheran Ch	nurch "Life with God" (LWG) Registration Form:
Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number: E	mail Address:
Baptized: Circle; Yes No Current Church Me	embership:
Check those which apply;	
I plan to attend "Life with God" and my	desire is to become a communicant member of St. John.
I plan to attend "Life with God" to renew	w my faith and/or to support a friend attending.
I plan to attend "Life with God" to simply	y explore and learn about Christianity and Lutheranism.
I plan to attend "Life with God" and will	decide later about possible membership.
Other thoughts or concerns:	
655 Wayne Ave Defiance OH 43512	Church 419 782 5766 School 419 782 1751

• www.stjohndefiance.com • email: sjl@defnet.com • www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherandefiance



		Septemb	oer 2020 – You	th Calendar		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Cross Training Kick-off! Sports Dinner. 6:30-8:00pm	3	4	5
6 YBS 9:30- 10:30am NO Youth Night - Enjoy Labor Day Weekend!	7 Labor Day!	8	9 Cross Training 6:30-8:00pm	10	11	12 Youth & Family Event – Canoeing/Kayaking 1:00pm-3:00pm
13 YBS 9:30- 10:30am Youth Night: Prayer Stations 6:30-8:00pm	14	15	16 Cross Training 6:30-8:00pm	17	18 Sr. High Fuse Night 6:30-8:00pm	19
20 YBS 9:30- 10:30am Youth Night 6:30-8:00pm	21	22	23 Cross Training 6:30-8:00pm	24	25	26
27 YBS 9:30- 10:30am Youth Game Night! 6:30-8:00pm	28	29	30 Cross Training 6:30-8:00pm			

September 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	AE= Adult Education GM= Gym FR= Fellowship Room LB= Library LR= Lunch Room CB= Church Balcony YR= Youth Room CH= Church CO= Church Office	1 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesdays @ 10 FR 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity	2 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training	3 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00-11:30a Genesis FR	4 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study 9:00a- Men's Project Team	5 5:30p Worship- Communion 6:00p YA Bible Study
6 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:00p Dave Anderson concert 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	7 Labor Day NO SCHOOL/CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 5:45p Finance 2	8 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 2:00- 4:00p Tuesdays @ 2 AE 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 6:30p Adult BB GM	9 9:00a Mom's in Touch at Tim H 11:30a Endowment Mtg @ SS 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training	10 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00-11:30a Genesis FR 12:00-2:00p Knit & Study 6:00p Outdoor Ed Mtg 7:00p BCDS Mtg	11 Patriot Day 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study	12 5:30p Worship
13 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	14 5:30p Trustees 6:30p Boy Scouts 5:45p Finance 1 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 7:00p COVID-19 Meeting	15 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 6:30p Adult BB GM 6:30p PTL Mtg LR	16 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training	17 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00-11:30a Genesis FR 7:00p Parish Planning	18 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study	19 5:30p Worship- Communion
20 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	21 5:45p Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 6:30p Boy Scouts	22 Fall begins 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 2:00- 4:00p Tuesdays @ 2 AE 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 6:30p Adult BB GM	23 9:00a Mom's in Touch at Tim H 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training	24 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00-11:30a Genesis FR 12:00-2:00p Knit & Study 2:00p Ladies Aid	25 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study	26 5:30p Worship
27 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	28 5:45p Finance 1 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 6:30p Boy Scout	29 DELAY START 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 6:30p Adult BB GM	30 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training		PTEM	BER

SJL YOUTH SCOOP

Can Recycling:

SJL Youth are putting our can recycling fundraiser on hold for now due to COVID. We will not be accepting any cans at this time. Thank you!



"You've Been Flocked!" Youth Fundraiser:

Want to surprise someone on their birthday, anniversary, or any other day? We can help! Hire the youth group to come decorate your loved one's yard with flamingos on their special day.

Price: \$20-donations accepted!

Fuse: High School Youth Program

Fuse is geared for high school students looking to serve their community, grow in relationships with others, and build a strong relationship with God. Join us for our first Fuse night on Friday September 18th from 6:30-8:00pm! We will play fun games and do a short devotion with some other activities. Join us as we begin this new journey!

Cross Training:

Cross training will begin with a kickoff on September 2nd from 6:30-8:00pm! Join us for a sports themed dinner and wear your favorite sports gear! All students in 1st-8th grade and their families are invited to attend.





Youth Activities: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Bible Study: Sundays from 9:30-10:30am in DCE Cassidy's office

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Nights: Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm in the youth room

<u>Fuse Nights—High School Youth:</u> Join us on September 18th from 6:30-8:00pm for our first Fuse night! We will do a small service project along with a devotion and we will get to know each other over games as well.